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SAN FRANCISCO BAY CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
507 Polk Street, San Francisco 94102 557-3686

TO: All Commissioners and Proxies
FROM: John Sutter, Chairman, Governmental Study Committee
SUBJECT: Regional Governmental Proposals of ABAG as They Relate to BCDC

At its meeting on December 16, the General Assembly of the Association of Bay Area Governments voted to present a "Regional Home Rule" proposal to the 1967 Legislature. This proposal asks the Legislature to designate ABAG as the regional government for the Bay Area, with power initially in four areas--regional planning, refuse disposal, regional parks and open space, and airports. While much of the ABAG governmental proposal has been widely covered in the Bay Area press, one aspect--of great importance to the BCDC--has not received much attention: under the proposal, Bay conservation and development would eventually be the responsibility of the reconstituted ABAG. Similarly, the work of the Bay Area Transportation Study Commission would become part of the new government. This new government would consist entirely of county supervisors and city councilmen, though changes would be made in the ABAG structure to provide greater representation for heavily-populated areas.

The specific language adopted unanimously by the ABAG General Assembly provides that: "Although BCDC and BATS were not mentioned specifically in this sense (i.e., as to consolidation with the new government), the intent of the Regional Home Rule Proposal is to insure that their ongoing functions, after their termination dates, would be absorbed by the new agency."

During General Assembly discussion of this matter, Robert Miller, Vice Mayor of San Jose and chairman of the ABAG Goals and Organization Committee, said his committee would study each regional function proposed for inclusion in the new government (including the function of Bay conservation and development) and would "make specific recommendations on each function as soon as possible."

The proposal considered by the General Assembly was as follows:

PROPOSAL: The authority of the new agency should be broadened to include additional problem areas in the initial proposal to the State Legislature. Suggestions include:

1. Regional Sewage Disposal
2. Housing
3. Provide specific recommendations for absorbing such units as the Bay Conservation and Development Commission and the Bay Area Transportation Study Commission.
4. Provide for the consolidation of existing special-purpose regional districts such as the Bay Area Air Pollution Control District and for the termination of Districts whose functions are absorbed by the new agency.
5. Some state administered functions, such as consolidation of all Bay toll crossings and Bay pollution control.

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GO COMMITTEE COMMENT: The fact that such problems have not been recommended for initial inclusion in the authority of the new agency is not a decision to leave them out altogether.

The Regional Home Rule proposal is directed at creation of a limited-function, general-purpose regional agency to accomplish three primary objectives:

1. Deal immediately with existing priority problems which are not being attacked by existing regional agencies.
2. Prevent the creation of additional fragmentation at the regional level in the future by anticipating problems.
3. Absorb, as appropriate over time, existing regional special purpose agencies and programs.

We must start somewhere. It should be apparent to everyone that we can lose the whole program and destroy our ability to accomplish the three objectives if we attempt to go too far initially in accomplishing the third.

All of the suggested additions except housing are included among the problem areas which are defined by the Regional Home Rule Proposal as being "regional in nature, significantly interrelated, and so urgent and serious as to require immediate attention and priority." They are still under study and will be dealt with in future reports by the Committee.

Housing has been included as a special element of the Association's 1966-68 Planning Program as a result of prior actions of the General Assembly. It will be carried forward regardless of the outcome of the Regional Home Rule Proposal.

Any consolidation of an existing special purpose agency with the new multipurpose agency will require action by the State Legislature. It is not possible to generalize or to legislate in one simple action for all existing special purpose agencies. They represent such great differences in form, function, and jurisdiction as exists between the Air Pollution Control District, the Bay Area Rapid Transit District, the Golden Gate Bridge and Highway District, and the State Regional Water Quality Control Board. All of the existing special purpose agencies and their programs are currently being studied by the Goals and Organization Committee and will be dealt with in future reports. However, proposals for consolidation and/or integration with the new ABAG would, of necessity, be developed on an individual basis and would be custom made to fit the unique circumstances of each case.

Although BCDC and BATSC were not mentioned specifically in this sense, the intent of the Regional Home Rule Proposal is to insure that their ongoing functions, after their termination dates, would be absorbed by the new agency.

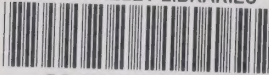
GO COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: The issues raised by the proposals for change are valid. The intent of the Regional Home Rule Proposal is consistent with them. Those concepts will be expressed clearly and

forcibly in the statement of legislative purpose in any statute supported by the Association. However, action to implement the Regional Home Rule Proposal should not be delayed pending the resolution of questions about additional authority and existing special purpose agencies which may require substantial time to evaluate and carry out. Those suggestions should be given a high priority for study, discussion and decision in the months immediately ahead.

Subject to the above comments, the Regional Home Rule Proposal does represent a sound beginning and as large a step as we possibly can expect to accomplish at the beginning.

The General Assembly unanimously adopted the committee's recommendation.

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